

Message Text

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ACTION OES-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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SUBJECT: US/ARGENTINE NUCLEAR TALKS

REF: A(A) STATE 221695, (B) STATE 226072

SUMMARY: GOA PROPOSES MIDDLE OF OCTOBER FOR INITIAL
JOINT NUCLEAR TALKS ON EXPANDED COOPERATION AND A NEW
NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. AFTER RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO
AND PROPOSED INTENTION TO FOLLOW-UP WITH FULL-SCOPE
SAFEGUARDS, INITIAL NUCLEAR TALKS WOULD SEEM TO BE THE
NEXT STEP. POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR AGENDA WOULD BE: US
POLICY FOR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS; REQUIREMENTS
FOR HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY; REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVISION
OF HEU AND LEU TO ARGENTINA; THIRD COUNTRY FABRICATION;
AREAS OF COOPERATION SUCH AS ASSISTANCE TO GOA ON HIGH
DENSITY LEU FUEL TECHNOLOGY; PROVISION OF ZIRCALOY TO
FRG FOR ARGENTINE POWER REACTORS; URANIUM PRODUCTION
AND MANAGEMENT; ETC. ADMIRAL CASTRO MADERO WOULD BE
WILLING TO DISCUSS THESE VARIOUS ISSUES IN VIENNA WITH
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AMB. SMITH AND/OR LOU NOSENZO BUT MERELY AS A PRELUDE
TO THE OCTOBER TALKS SINCE THESE DISCUSSIONS
WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENCY AND FONMIN.
END SUMMARY.

1. SCICOUNS MET LAST WEEK WITH ADMIRAL CASTRO MADERO
AND DR. JORGE COLL OF CNEA AND MINISTRO PETRELLA

AND SECRETARIO MATAS OF THE FONOFF TO DISCUSS CONTENTS OF REFTEL(A) CONCERNING PROPOSED VISITS OF US NUCLEAR TEAM TO ARGENTINA. BOTH CNEA AND FONOFF INDICATED MID OCTOBER WOULD BE BEST TIME FOR GOA.

2. PERIODIC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH CNEA AND FONMFICIALS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS TO DISCUSS US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES AND POSSIBILITIES OF US/ ARGENTINE FUTURE COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN DELINEATED IN A NUMBER OF EMBASSY MESSAGES.

3. ARGENTINA'S RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND PROPOSED INTENTION TO FOLLOW WITH FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING TO US/ARGENTINE NUCLEAR RELATIONS AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE NUCLEAR TALKS LAST NOVEMBER IN BUENOS AIRES. THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING FORWARD WITH INITIAL DISCUSSIONS FOR A NEW NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP IN THIS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. OFFICIALS IN BOTH CNEA AND FONMIN WANT EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH THE US BUT ARE SOMEWHAT LEERY OF WAHT IMPOSITIONS US MIGHT APPLY ON ARGENTINA IN EXCHANGE FOR A NEW AGREEMENT AND EXPANDED COOPERATION.

4. AS DISCUSSED WITH GOA OFFICIALS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
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WOULD SEEM TO BE ESSENTIAL TO INCLUDE IN AN AGENDA FOR TALKS IN OCTOBER: (A) EXACTLY WHAT THE US WILL REQUIRE IN REGARD TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT AND WHETHER DE FACTO SAFEGUARDS ON CERTAIN FACILITIES WOULD OR WOULD NOT SUFFICE; (B) A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF US REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVISION OF HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY (THE ARGENTINES STILL CONTEND THAT DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING WAS NOT IN THE AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSED LAST NOVEMBER.); (C) THE REPROCESSING ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY, (D) US FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF HEU AND LEU (ARGENTINA MADE A REQUEST TO US FOR 12 KILOS OF HEU FOR THE RA-3 REACTOR AND A REQUEST FOR 37.5 KILOS OF LEU 20 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE PERU REACTOR.); (E) US POLICY ON THIRD COUNTRY FABRICATION AS IN THE CASE OF SPANISH FABRICATION OF US FUEL FOR THE PERU REACTOR; (F) RAMIFICATIONS RELATING TO THE NPR AND US/ARGENTINE COOPERATION; (G) AREAS OFRE COOPERATION SUCH AS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GOA IN HIGH DENSITY LEU FUEL FOR RESEARCH REACTORS; EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS IN THE VARIOUS NUCLEAR FIELDS; REACTOR TECHNOLOGY; PROVISION OF URANIUM FUEL; CONTINUED US PROVISION OF ZIRCALOY TO FRG FOR FABRICATION OF FUEL

RODS FOR ARGENTINE POWER REACTORS; URANIUM EXPLORATION TECHNIQUES AND PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT; ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; AND DISCUSSION OF ANY POSSIBILITY THAT ARGENTINA MAY CHANGE TO A LIGHT WATER ENRICHED URANIUM REACTOR LINE AFTER ATUCHA 2.

5. COMMENTS. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH CONVENIENT DATES AROUND THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER WHEN US NUCLEAR TEAM COULD VISIT ARGENTINA, PROPOSED LENGTH OF VISIT, AND PROPOSED AGENDA. IN REGARD TO REFTEL B, CASTRO MADERO LEFT ARGENTINA ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, FOR VIENNA. HE WILL BE STAYING AT THE EUROPA HOTEL OR COULD BE CONTACTED THROUGH THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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VIENNA. HE INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ISSUES INVOLVING ARGENTINA AND US NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH AMB. SMITH AND/OR LOU NOSENZO. HOWEVER, HE ASSUMES THIS WOULD ONLY BE IN PREPARATION FOR THE TALKS IN BUENOS AIRES IN OCTOBER. CASTRO MADERO MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT CNEA AND WITHIN THE GOA, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENCY, WHOM HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH IN ADVANCE OF THE TALKS. BOTH MINISTRO PETRELLA AND SECRETARIO MATAS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPOSED JOINT DISCUSSIONS AND STRESSED THAT THE FONOFF WOULD BE TAKING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE TALKS.
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